

9-15 July 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian organizations remain concerned about deteriorating health conditions in refugee sites in Upper Nile and Unity states
- Heavy rains are hampering access to communities displaced by conflict in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.
- The Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster is concerned that the lean season will move more South Sudanese towards food insecurity.

2012 FIGURES

Conflict incidents	185
Number of people newly displaced	164,331

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 15 July 2012.



Food distribution to refugees in Upper Nile State (WFP)

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Situation overview

Humanitarian organizations responded to multiple ongoing emergency operations in South Sudan over the week. Some 170,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile and Unity states were provided with food, water, health support and other assistance, as new arrivals continued to be received from across the border. Aid agencies also focused on responding to people returning to Abyei, and those displaced from the contested area in the Agok area, Warrap State and other parts of South Sudan. In Northern Bahr el Ghazal, the delivery of humanitarian assistance was restricted to conflict-displaced communities due to the onset of heavy rains. On the food security front, the lean season is expected to be more severely felt by South Sudanese households this year, due to a number of factors pushing people towards food insecurity.

Presidents Kiir and Bashir meet in Addis Ababa

The Presidents of South Sudan and Sudan met in Addis Ababa on 14 July on the sidelines of an African Union summit. Although no readout from the meeting has been received, it has raised hopes for a possible negotiated settlement of unresolved Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues, before the UN Security Council deadline of 2 August.

Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

Rains restrict access to displaced communities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal

The onset of heavy rains is hampering the delivery of humanitarian aid to communities displaced by March-April border clashes between South Sudan and Sudan, in Jaac, Rumaker and Warlang in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. Aid organizations have been sharing details of successful missions to sites where displaced people are located with the Logistics Cluster, to improve knowledge of accessibility.

Food distribution targeting over 6,000 people displaced by conflict in Gokmachar and Jaac is ongoing, with close to 450 metric tons of food already distributed. People displaced in Jaac are receiving food rations from accessible areas close to the site for displaced people, as Jaac remains inaccessible. In Gokmachar, water, sanitation and hygiene partners have finalized an assessment to install a water point and construct sanitary facilities in a primary school where people displaced are located. Health partners have pre-positioned medical supplies at county level and health facilities located at sites for displaced people, to strengthen the response to expected escalation of malaria and diarrhea as the rains intensify. Aid organizations on the ground continue to report a shortage of seeds and tools for farming, to over 2,000 households in need.

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Emergency returns sector	IOM UNHCR
Emergency telecommunications	WFP
Food security & livelihoods	FAO/WFP VSF-B
Health	WHO GOAL
Logistics	WFP
Non-food items & emergency shelter	IOM World Vision
Nutrition	UNICEF ACF
Protection	UNHCR NRC
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Medair

Deaths due to mines have increased from 26 people to 52 people over the past year, although casualties remained unchanged at 109 from the previous 12 months

Returns to Abyei continue slowly; humanitarian assistance ongoing

The trend of voluntary returns of people displaced from the contested Abyei area continued slowly over the week. The outbreak of conflict in Abyei in May 2011 led to the displacement of 110,000 people to the Agok area, Warrap State and other parts of South Sudan. Returning Ngok Dinka continued to reconstruct their homes and engage in agriculture on their return to Abyei. On 9 July, a skirmish broke out between the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya in Abyei town. UN peacekeeping troops deployed and the security situation has since returned to normal.

Humanitarian organizations continued to provide relief assistance to people displaced in the Agok area, Warrap State and other areas of South Sudan. Distribution of household items has been ongoing, with over 4,500 kits distributed to households in both Agok and Abyei. The kits contain items such as mosquito nets, plastic sheets and water containers. Over 8,000 children have been reached through 12 child friendly spaces set up in Agok and Abyei, according to protection partners. Some unaccompanied and separated children have been observed in Abyei town. In response, protection partners will assess the children and initiate family tracing and reunification the coming week. Education partners are constructing 11 temporary learning spaces in the Agok area. Six spaces have been set up so far.

Mine casualties figures remain unchanged while deaths increase



Anti-tank mine found on a road in Unity State (UNMAS)

During the period July 2011 to June this year there were 52 reported deaths due to mines, an increase of 100 per cent on the 26 deaths between July 2010 and June 2011. However, the number of reported casualties, including both deaths and injuries, for the same period remained unchanged at 109 from the previous 12 months. The sharp increase in deaths caused by mines is attributed largely to the re-mining of routes and roads which took place in the second half of 2011, primarily in Unity State. In response to re-mining, a mine action sub-office was opened in Unity's Bentiu town, and specialist route survey and clearance teams have been operating in the region. In total, over 600 kilometres of road has been opened in Unity State. However, with the onset of the rainy season many demining activities are restricted due to changing ground conditions, which affects the ability to detect explosive vapours and movement of heavy machinery.

Lean period to push households towards food insecurity

The lean period, which is now at its peak, heightens the vulnerability of South Sudanese to food insecurity. The lean period usually lasts from May to September, and is when households are most likely to slip into food insecurity, because crops are being planted and have not yet harvested. This year the lean period will be felt more severely due to a number of factors, according to food security partners. Food prices remain above 2011 figures and the five year average, especially in states bordering Sudan; there is a reduced flow of commodities because of border closures with Sudan; transport costs are higher stemming from fuel shortages; the rainy season has left many areas inaccessible; and there is a likely to be an emergence of livestock diseases with the onset of the wet season. To understand the severity of vulnerability in the various states the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster is working with the Government to carry out Information Management/Integrated Phase Classification training over the coming month.

Refugee updates

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	41,521
Jamman	30,556
Yusuf Batil	32,888
Total	104,965

Numbers in Unity

Yida	64,317
Pariang	1,011
Nyeel	844
Total	66,172

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 17 July 2012

In Yusuf Batil, tents assisting 23,000 refugees have already been distributed, and further tents targeting 3,500 people will be pitched in the coming days.

Health conditions in refugee sites cause for concern

Humanitarian organizations remain concerned about the health situation at refugee sites in Upper Nile and Unity states, hosting over 170,000 conflict-affected refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan. In Upper Nile, a spike in malaria cases has been reported at Doro where over 40,000 refugees are located, according to the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR. This is reportedly due to the large number of stagnant water ponds resulting from heavy rains. A notable increase in cases of diarrhea has also been registered in Doro. Aid agencies have stepped up health assistance at the site, including community outreach and out-patient consultations.

At the Jamman site in Upper Nile, an estimated 10,000 people a week are being treated for dehydration, due to the continued shortage of water. Relief agencies continued efforts to relocate refugees from Jamman, to Yusuf Batil which has better water supplies. Already some 32,000 people have been relocated.

The health situation at the main refugee site in Unity State is also of grave concern. The Yida site, which currently hosts 64,000 refugees and is already overcrowded, is receiving some 800 new arrivals a day. Health actors reported an increase in the number of children suffering from diarrhea, reportedly resulting in death in some cases. Consultations are also on the rise, with up to 2,500 people a week seeking medical assistance. In order to mitigate the impact of hygiene related and water borne diseases at Yida, aid agencies have airlifted 150kgs of chlorine to chlorinate water points, in addition to 8,800 bars of soap and over 2,600 water containers. Diarrhea kits and medical supplies to boost current stocks have also been dispatched to Yida.

Airlift of relief items for 171,000 refugees

The airlift of about 420 tonnes of household items benefitting some 171,000 people in refugee sites in Upper Nile and Unity was completed in the week. Humanitarian agencies are currently distributing the items, which include mosquito nets, blankets and plastic sheets, to new arrivals and other refugees. In Yusuf Batil, tents assisting 23,000 refugees have already been distributed, and further tents targeting 3,500 people will be pitched in the coming days. Further tents providing shelter for 25,000 refugees will be airlifted from Juba in the coming days, which should solve some of the shelter challenges currently being faced by the refugees.

Returns to South Sudan

Humanitarian-supported return movements continue

Humanitarian-assisted movements of South Sudanese returnees to final destinations across the country continued during the week. In Upper Nile State, the IOM-supported barge convoy that has been loading in Renk is expected to depart in the coming week with about 2,500 individuals on board. The barge will travel to Juba, after which returnees will be assisted to move onwards to Greater Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei and Greater Equatoria states. An IOM-supported barge movement of some 450 returnees from Upper Nile's Malakal to Juba is also scheduled to take place in the coming week.

On the outskirts of Juba, an IOM verification exercise of the returnee population at the National Teacher Training Institute transit site carried out on 11 July. The verification identified some 1,700 returnees residing at the site, most of whom plan to settle in Juba County. Most do not plan to move until land allocation processes for the county become clear. In the meantime, small humanitarian-supported movements of returnees from the transit site continue, with 43 people brought to Eastern Equatoria on 14 July. Overall some 500 returnees arrived at final destinations in South Sudan during the week.

An IOM-verification exercise identified 1,700 returnees residing at the transit site on the outskirts of Juba

Returnees*				By type		
State	Previous total	New arrivals 4-10 July	Updated total	Government assisted	Spontaneous	Un-specified
Unity	88,016	33	88,049	32,462	55,587	0
N. Bahr el Ghazal	72,768	0	72,768	25,076	46,301	1,391
Upper Nile	74,024	0	74,024	25,797	33,077	15,150
Central Equatoria	53,717	0	53,717	37,348	16,369	0
Warrap	37,214	98	37,312	17,689	10,366	9,257
W. Bahr el Ghazal	25,496	320	25,816	11,188	14,628	0
Jonglei	21,685	21	21,706	16,090	5,586	30
Lakes	17,475	0	17,475	15,704	1,501	270
Eastern Equatoria	13,690	0	13,690	11,833	1,857	0
Western Equatoria	2,682	0	2,682	1,960	673	49
Total	406,767	472	407,239	195,147	185,945	26,147

*since 30 October 2010. Contains only verified IOM data unless otherwise noted. Figures as of 10 July 2012.

Reduced humanitarian capacity at returnee transit sites in Renk

A number of humanitarian agencies have closed their operations in Upper Nile's Renk returnee transit sites, or plan to do so in the coming weeks. Currently there are 19,000 returnees residing at the sites. The reasons for the reduction in operations include that aid agencies are being stretched, responding to emergencies elsewhere. Also, many returnees intend to stay in Renk and have been residing there for significant amounts of time.

This report was prepared by the OCHA South Sudan office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments on the current issue, please contact: ochasouthsudan@un.org